

The 3rd ALL SCOTLAND AUTONOMOUS ASSEMBLY

Discussion and co-ordination - what we can do to make social struggle 'from below' stronger and more effective. Gathering every 2 months.

Sunday 1st November 1992. Assemble 1.30pm, start 2pm, finish 5.30pm.
At Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre, 103 Broughton St., Edinburgh.

5 minutes walk from St. Andrews Square bus station - go right onto York Place, and then left at Broughton St..
10 minutes walk from British Rail Waverley station - go to the east end of Princes St., then left onto Leith Street, continue down the left hand side of Leith St past the entrance to St. James Centre, under the pedestrian bridge, then turn left before the big roundabout, go past the Palozzi statues and straight ahead down Broughton St..

SUGGESTED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

2pm

1) **Introductions/aims.** Elect minute takers and chairs. Finalise agenda.

2.15pm

2) **Resisting water privatisation.** Building a movement that can defeat privatisation through having the strength to stop the installation of meters and to successfully refuse to pay the water bills. What do we think of the Hands off our Water campaign? Can we build on the already existing independent anti poll tax groups? Anti water theft demo in Glasgow 21 November.

3pm

3) **Stuff the Summit 92.** Resistance to the EC Summit in Edinburgh 10 -12 December 1992. Introduced by Kevin of Class War and the Stuff the Summit group.

3.30pm Break for tea, coffee etc..

3.45pm

4) **Struggles for health and safety**, in the community and at work. Speaker invited from Clydeside Action on Asbestos.

4.15pm

5) **Anti racist and anti fascist struggles.** Focussing on the actual activity being undertaken by groups like Anti Fascist Action and Lothian Campaign Against Racism and Fascism in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

4.45pm

6) **Brief announcements and info exchange** on other struggles and activities - could include benefit cuts, opposition to the Child Support Act, the Council tax, prisoner solidarity, sexual politics, free university network events, anarchist summer school, etc..

5pm

7) **Next Forum** : date, venue, agenda.

Creche room with toys is available at the venue. Please let us know in advance if you will have children with you, so we can organise people to staff the creche.

Cost - suggested donation of £1 / 50p unwaged. Money is needed to pay the Unemployed Workers Centre, which is totally unfunded, for the use of the facilities, and to pay for the mailing.

Any suggestions for amendments/additions/deletions to the agenda please write :

Pigeonhole C.Info, (for MIKE), c/o 11 Forth St., Edinburgh EH1

INFO: tel. 031 332 7547, 031 557 0718 (weekday afns - Mike), 041 427 6398, 041 357 5198.

Participants to date include people involved in Clydeside Action on Asbestos, Workers City, free university network, Counter Information, Scottish Democratic Resistance, AK Distribution, Hunt Sabs, Anti Fascist Action, Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre, Anarchist Black Cross, several anti poll tax groups.

The meeting was introduced as its purpose being to identify a network within autonomous left groups with a view to discussion, reporting, informing and mutual support.

The discussion was fairly wide-ranging and open, although key points of Water privatisation, the Council Tax and the Euro-summit were put forward as focal points. The notes which follow are an impression of the debate.

- Attacks on claimants outlined by MV.
- Last meetings minutes seemed to give the impression that we had aligned ourselves that we had advocated rather, the Scottish Republican cause.
- Govanhill anti-water privatisation campaign started.
- Discussion on Scotland United, 'has it died a death', has it 'apatnised' its supporters? Is nationalism an issue? The Labour/SNP group seem to be waiting on Parliament to re-start for more careerist campaigning.
- Scottish Republicanism, how many books have been written on the subject? Poverty is the real issue other than a sectarian one.
- Kelvingrove campaign compared to Glasgow Green (legal battle considered a waste of time compared to public protest). Spread of parkland privatisation perhaps calls for a unified body city-wide.
- The above set in some historical context, the vast privatisation of public resources (presided over by a Labour Council) compared to liberal Council ('merchants who developed these resources, despite being the capitalist class.
- The importance of the Water campaign, mass public protest anticipated, a potential revolutionary moment, privatisation of water and land closely linked, moves to privitise the forestry commission.
- How can anti-privitisation campaign work? what levels of support does it need? (the unions ?). Record shows that 99% of privitisations have been successful.
- Strong disagreement that the Unions are a factor ('fuck the trade unions' were the actual words) in that they themselves are playing a part in the transition from laissez-faire to monopoly capitalism. It must be a grass roots campaign. A proposal that the meeting should gather the remnants of anti-poll tax groups for a public meeting. Law breaking in anti-water privitisation should be encouraged stress should be on instead of leaving the workplace, sit-ins be advocated.
- The point was strongly made that the A.A. should refocus its attention to, not throw itself into the anti-water privitisation campaign to such an extent (does the precedent really justify it) that it ceases to do anything else. The A.A. must retain its wide range of issues. As a catalyst for a freer Scotland it must recognise that civil liberties are under attack on many fronts, all these issues are equally important for a meeting of this kind, as they form its basis.
- Anti-water privitisation will be of continuing interest to those in the group and others, and it will seek to develop the movement, but all existing campaigns need diversity and support. The fundamental problems we encounter are that we should not dictate to people already demonstrating on the streets that they come under one umbrella.
- The room exists for us to sharpen up what we are doing, perhaps crossing over into action in the light of failures of anti-poll tax campaign. Ultimately these failures included the fact that activists did not meet and co-ordinate enough.
- Members of the A.A. should be aware that this is not a replacement for whatever campaigns they represent but a forum to cross-reference these. There is no need for us to hold to any body of opinion other than those which emerge from our common ground.

As indicated this is just a short impression of the meeting. Please remember that if you plan to attend the next one you are free to bring along information on campaigns you are involved in, or information you feel relevant. There are some plans to collate this in a non-centralised manner. Please feel free to invite others along to the meeting whom you feel would be interested and have something to contribute.

Billy C.(Workers City).